

spends part of each day visiting online grief sites offering assistance to those who are struggling with tragedy.

For his tremendous efforts to make a difference in ending this scourge and to make our community a better place, I am proud to join the Syracuse Football Club in honoring J. Michael Anderson.

HONORING DEBBIE WILLIAMS

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Debbie Williams of Monroe County, Kentucky for her philanthropy in the revitalization of downtown Tompkinsville and her entrepreneurial achievement in attracting new private investment into the Tompkinsville/Monroe County area.

Debbie Williams' first experience in business in Tompkinsville was with Page Brothers—her parents' clothing store located on Main Street which operated next door to my father's dental office until 1979.

Like most of rural America, the 1980's and 1990's saw a massive exodus from downtown retail and office storefronts. Most rural Kentucky downtown areas were filled with vacant, aging buildings badly in need of repair.

Around 2010, Debbie Williams took her entrepreneurial success as co-owner of Bluegrass Dairy and made it her passion to purchase many of the depressed, vacant downtown Tompkinsville storefronts and renovate them. She purchased the building where Page Brothers was located and opened Family Circle Clothing Store. Mrs. Williams also opened and operates Brass Bell in downtown—a home furnishing store.

In two other buildings purchased by Debbie Williams, she has partnered with young entrepreneurs to provide funding for The Flower Cart and Moments in Monroe which are two new start up businesses.

In addition to her downtown Tompkinsville investments, Debbie Williams also owns Spin-out Body Shop and Monroe County's only motel—The Tompkinsville Inn.

Despite Tompkinsville being a small town in an economically depressed region, thanks to Debbie Williams, Tompkinsville is now a hotbed of new investments, and it has one of the most beautiful downtown areas in Kentucky.

Debbie Williams is not just a female entrepreneur success story, she is a hometown hero for her downtown revitalization efforts and her achievement in attracting new private investment into the great town of Tompkinsville, Kentucky.

MILITARY RETIREMENT—UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

HON. TREY GOWDY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. GOWDY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation in honor of an exceptional officer in the United States Marine Corps. Colonel Donald L. Revell, will re-

tire in December after more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Marine Corps and the Nation.

Whereas, in May 1986, Colonel Revell graduated from Francis Marion University earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronic Engineering Technology.

Whereas, following in his father's Marine Corps footsteps, Colonel Revell was commissioned a Second Lieutenant through the Marine Officer Candidate School Program. A graduate from the Basic Communication Officer School and the Cryptologic Division Officer's School, Colonel Revell was designated a Signals Intelligence Electronic Warfare Officer. His illustrious career would begin with "America's Radio Battalion", the Second Radio Battalion, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Whereas, over the course of 30 plus years, serving in both active and reserve duty status and in a variety of command and staff assignments, Colonel Revell provided outstanding leadership with integrity and offered sound advice on numerous issues of importance to the Marine Corps and to our Nation.

Whereas, 1 January 2018, Colonel Revell will officially retire from the United States Marine Corps faithfully serving this great nation for 31 years. Be it

Resolved, That I, TREY GOWDY, do congratulate Colonel Donald L. Revell, his wife Beth Anne, their two sons, Griffin and Alexander for their unwavering commitment and devotion to service to our great Nation, and thank them for their unwavering loyalty, dedication and contributions to Spartanburg County and to the Fourth Congressional District of South Carolina.

IN RECOGNITION OF RICHARD KERN AND A TRADITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Kern for his 50 years of service in the East Bangor Fire Department. His accomplishments were celebrated by his peers on the evening of Saturday, November 11.

As a resident of Bangor, Pennsylvania, Richard has been a constant steward of public safety in my District for a half-century. Richard led the department as Fire Chief from 1993 to 1995. During his service he inspired confidence and put his own life at risk to ensure the safety of others. Today, he remains an active member of the fire department as Safety Officer. His dedication to helping others extends beyond the East Bangor Fire Department. Richard is also a life member of the Blue Valley Rescue Squad, an organization founded in 1973 to provide emergency services to the Slate Belt region.

I ask my fellow Members to join me in recognizing Richard Kern for life of service and commitment to the well-being of his community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 623, yea on Roll Call No. 624 and nay on Roll Call No. 625.

THEODORE EDWIN CLYDE DAVIES, MD

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the outstanding career of Dr. Theodore Davies.

It all began in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, making house calls with his Father. Often, there was no road to help them travel where they needed to go; but, still, they found a way or made their own. This would become the story of young Theodore Edwin Clyde Davies' life. A life spent in dedication to others.

His formal education began at the prestigious McCallie School located on Missionary Ridge in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Founded in 1905, McCallie is highly regarded as a private, Christian based college preparatory school for young boys and men, grades 6 through 12. Here, the virtues of honor, truth, and duty would be fostered, and he would encounter the question, "What is man's chief end?"

Young Theodore next found his way to Vanderbilt University and graduated in 1967. Answering the call to follow in his Father's footsteps, he then attended the University of Louisville School of Medicine and graduated in 1971. His surgical internships and residency in Neurosurgery would take him to the Indiana Medical Center, and Montreal, Canada. In Montreal, he would train on the first CT scanner in North America. Later, during his training in Louisville, he would begin treating patients with the first CT scans in the United States.

The next leg of his journey would lead to the service of his country in the United States Navy. Reporting to both Portsmouth, Virginia, and Okinawa, Japan, he would leave the service with the rank of Lt. Commander.

Finally, on to Paducah, Kentucky, answering the need for a private Neurosurgical practice. Here, he would make his home with his wife, Debbie—the most beautiful nurse he had ever seen. That home would eventually include the blessings of Ann, Teddy, Ellen and Emily. Now, 37 years later, they continue to be blessed with new additions, including 4 grandchildren.

As he concludes his active practice and retires this December, he looks forward to traveling and spending time with family, reading all those books that have been on his "to do list" for years, and hitting the greens every chance he gets. He will also be able to reflect upon his work as a physician and surgeon and know that he has upheld his Oath to others. He knows well, and has shared with countless others, that the answers to man's chief end is "to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." I thank Dr. Davies; well done, Sir.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RODNEY
MAURICE GILBERT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Rodney Maurice Gilbert, a giant in New Jersey arts and social justice activism. For the past fifteen years, Mr. Gilbert led Yendor Productions, a Newark-based firm he founded in order to develop and produce arts education programming that elevates oppressed voices. He was a dedicated artist, educator, and community leader.

Mr. Gilbert devoted his life to helping underserved communities find their artistic voices. After graduating from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mr. Gilbert spent three decades serving the arts community in New Jersey. He was an accomplished actor with credits on stages from Broadway to Little Rock. He was a gifted director known for shining artistic light on social issues such as mental illness. And he was an educator who inspired young artists to bring to life the untold stories of underserved communities.

Mr. Gilbert left a lasting impact on New Jersey. He helped heal Newark by paving the way for people to use arts and culture as vehicles for advancing social justice. Mr. Gilbert brought people together. He inspired young people. And he created a platform for people to creatively tell their own stories. In July, Mr. Gilbert directed *Down Neck*, a play written by Pia Wilson that explores the 1967 Newark Rebellion's impacts on the Ironbound neighborhood. His inspirational use of arts as a means to speak truth, preserve history, and pursue justice has left a permanent mark on the New Jersey arts scene.

Mr. Gilbert passed away on November 8, 2017, but his legacy will live on. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life of Rodney Gilbert—artist, teacher, advocate, and friend.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF REVEREND MARY EDITH
MOODY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Reverend Mary Edith Moody, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who passed away on October 28, 2017 at the age of 91.

Rev. Moody was born on July 29, 1926, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She was one of nine siblings in a family of modest means. Her father, Mr. James Nathaniel Moody Sr., was a supervisor of Negro Schools in West Baton Rouge and her mother was a teacher. After graduating from high school at Southern University Lab School in 1943, she earned two degrees from Southern University: one in business education and the other in secondary education. She later earned a master's degree in education from Louisiana State University and a certificate of theology from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Rev. Moody taught English and business education to visually impaired children for more than 30 years at the Louisiana State School for the Blind at Southern University—and was one of five teachers named Outstanding Secondary Educator of America from a field of 5,000 candidates—before retiring from her teaching career to become one of the first female ministers for the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. Moody was ordained in 1976 and assigned to Black Creek AME Church in Darlington that same day. During her pastoral career, she served as pastor at Mount Everett AME Church in St. Helena Parish and Heard AME Church in Baton Rouge and eventually became an associate pastor at Bethel AME Church on South Street.

Rev. Moody received numerous awards for service, commitment and leadership, including the Powell-Reznikoff Award from the Baton Rouge Council on Human Relations in 2001 along with the first Mid City Community Lifetime Achievement Medal in 2004 at the age of 77. Also, she was a proud member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., for more than 70 years.

Rev. Moody devoted herself to numerous Baton Rouge community organizations, advocating for children, African Americans, women, the poor, and anyone facing hardship. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Rev. Moody, but surely we can try to match her sense of service. We cannot match her courage, but we can strive to match her devotion.

Rev. Mary Edith Moody survivors include her sister, Ms. Martha E. Moody Boone; Brother, Mr. Charles David Moody, Sr.; and Sister-in-Law, Ms. Dorothy Johnson Moody; twenty-four Nieces and Nephew; a host of Grand-, Great-Grand-, and Great-Great-Great-Nieces and Nephew; and a host of surrogate sons and daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Reverend Mary Edith Moody a beloved daughter, sister, and grandmother as well as a true example of Baton Rouge culture personified.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 13, 2017, I was unavoidably detained. As a result, I was absent for Roll Call votes 623 through 625.

Had I been present for Roll Call vote 623, on agreeing to H. Res. 599, I would have voted yes; on Roll Call vote 624, on suspension of the rules and passage of H.R. 3071, I would have voted yes; and on Roll Call vote 625, on approving the journal, I would have voted yes.

H.R. 3705, THE VETERANS FAIR
DEBT NOTICE ACT OF 2017

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3705, the Veterans Fair

Debt Notice Act of 2017. H.R. 3705 modifies the ways that veterans are notified of any outstanding debts from a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program.

This bill is essential because current VA debt notification letters can be confusing, highly technical, and fail to convey important dates and amounts. This legislation would direct the VA to clarify language in debt notification emails, coordinate email and postal mail notifications, and study the process of debt notification to ensure that messages are communicated effectively. The cost of sending postal mail notifications would also be evaluated in this study.

Congress should take measures to reduce veterans' debt by effectively communicating outstanding payments and due dates. Reducing debt is one of many ways we can ensure a smoother transition into civilian society for our veterans, which is why I support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, due to other commitments, I missed the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, on Roll Call no. 613, I would have voted yes; and on Roll Call no. 614, I would have voted no.

RECOGNIZING THE SMILEY
FAMILY

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Smiley Family of Mohonk Mountain House for being named the recipients of the 2017 Legendary Family Historic Hoteliers of the Year by Historic Hotels of America and Historic Hotels Worldwide. This prestigious award acknowledges multigenerational, family-owned historic hotels that are exemplary in both their operation and preservation efforts. It is true testament to the Smiley Family's continued legacy of historical, environmental, and cultural stewardship.

Founded in 1869 by Albert Smiley, the Mohonk Mountain House—a picturesque Victorian castle resort surrounded by vast forests and wildlife—is still owned and operated by the Smiley Family. What makes the Mohonk Mountain House such a prized treasure in the 19th District, and an attraction for travelers worldwide, is the Smiley Family's dedication to conserving the historical integrity of their resort and the land surrounding it.

Using their timeless resort as a catalyst for historical, environmental, and cultural preservation, the Smiley Family has redefined the role of hoteliers and has established a higher standard of excellence. For example, in 1963, the Smiley Family founded the Mohonk Preserve, a nature preserve that safeguards more than 8,000 acres. In 1980, the Smiley Family also founded Mohonk Consultations, a non-profit think tank focused on environmental issues throughout the Hudson Valley.